

February 12, 2020

[This episode starts with Niall walking through the SUMmerway museum. He isn't very entertained as he walks past an exhibit on the planets.]

Niall: How can any kid really believe in this bunk? That is not at ALL what Jupiter is like. It's all a bunch of hot gas.

[A little girl - about the age of six, Summer, walks up to Niall. She has a ribbon in her vibrant red hair.]

Summer: Isn't that what they say that Jupiter is?

Niall: It was just an expression. You know what they say about talking to strangers, don't you?

Summer: No.

Niall: Good, it's wrong anyway.

Summer: (Giggle) You're funny. My name is Summer.

Niall: Mine is... Niall.

Summer: So, what brings you to the museum?

Niall: I guess I was trying to learn something, but the only thing right here is the exhibit on the moon landing.

Summer: You're kind of weird.

Niall: Good. It's the normal ones they get first. What are you doing here?

Summer: Oh, I was just gonna see the Civil War exhibit.

[The two of them walk into a large room about the war seen in Tales of Childhood Past. There are many scenes from the episode set up as exhibits and stills with wax statues.]

Summer: Is this stuff up to snuff for you?

Niall: It seems accurate.

Summer: Good.

[Summer walks up to a statue of Abby in the center of the room.]

Summer: Abby's my hero. I wanna be just like her, fighting for equality.

Niall: You got a good head on your shoulders, kid.

Summer: Thanks, you've got a good one on yours too.

Niall: I better. I paid a lot of money for it.

Summer: Okay, you are VERY weird.

Niall: So I've been told.

[Cut to later that day. The lighting from the skylights indicates that it's sunset Niall is standing at a large dinosaur statue.]

Niall: The only question is how did they find enough paper for that much mache.

[Two kids in the background - Dustin and Ruby - are dressed up like archeologists. Dustin runs up to Ruby with a book in his hands.]

Dustin: I've finally found it!

[As soon as Niall hears this, he takes cover, hiding behind a statue.]

Ruby: What is it?

Dustin: It's Abigail's personal diary!

Ruby: Abigail?

Dustin: Stop playing stupid - Abigail Margaret.

Ruby: The Abigail!?

Dustin: Yeah, that one. C'mon, let's break the lock and read what's inside.

[Ruby immediately gets offended.]

Ruby: That's just like a boy. Haven't you ever heard to never read a girl's diary?

Dustin: But she's been dead for over a hundred years. I don't think she cares.

Ruby: Do you know that for sure?

Dustin: How am I supposed to answer that?

Ruby: I guess that means I'm the better historian.

[Ruby thinks for a beat.]

Dustin: Well?

Ruby: Shhh, I'm thinking.

Dustin: C'mon Ruby. A first-hand experience of one of the most important people in Americandy history. That's gotta be worth bending a few rules, and maybe breaking a lock or two, right?

Ruby: Alright, fine. Let's go get some tools.

[The two of them walk off with the diary. Zoom into Niall who was watching from the distance. He looks stoically intrigued.]

Niall: Now this is something that I've got to see.

[Cut to Niall sneaking through the museum. He does not do a very good of it. He randomly hides behind displays, jumps over things, knocking them over. At one point he even lands on someone, crushing them. He eventually makes it to an "employees only" door. He makes a run for it, past several people watching on. Then he slowly tries to listen at the door. The door swings open wildly and crushes Niall as Ruby and Rustin exit the room. Both of them are horrified.]

Ruby: I don't understand. How could she—

Dustin: This has got to be fake. It has to be.

Ruby: No, it couldn't be. I'd know Abby's signature if my life depended on it.

Dustin: What do we do?

Ruby: I don't know.

Dustin: Should we display this?

Ruby: I DON'T KNOW, okay? I need some time to think.

Dustin: This changes... everything, doesn't it?

Ruby: I am well aware of that. Look, I need to get a soda.

Dustin: I'll join you.

Ruby: I'd like to get one on my own.

Dustin: Fine then. I'll get a milkshake.

[The two of them walk off while Niall peels himself off of the wall. Niall takes a look at them walking off in separate directions. He takes a breath. Then he turns to open the door into the employee room. Niall steps inside, taking a peek in both directions. The light focuses on the open book.]

Niall: So Abigail, what kind of secrets were you hiding?

[Niall walks closer to the book. Suddenly he hears something.]

Ruby: {Off-screen} I'm just gonna get that book before anyone else stumbles upon it.

[Niall panics.]

[Cut to Ruby and Dustin entering the room. They find that the book has disappeared.]

Ruby: It-it's gone!

Dustin: Did it fall on the floor?

Ruby: No, it didn't. I left it right here on the table! We've got to get that book back!

[Pan up to show Niall hanging on the ceiling, clutching the book.]

Ruby: No one can know what's inside that book.

Dustin: It sounds like someone has made up their mind.

Ruby: Boys and girls are already getting ready to tear each other apart, Dustin I couldn't imagine what would happen if that book fell into the wrong hands.

Dustin: I guess you're right. The book couldn't have gotten far. We'll just lock down the museum and things will be—

[An air vent duct falls to the ground. Dustin and Ruby look horrified at the duct in front of them.]

Ruby: Bright idea from a boy.

Dustin: Better than the one from a girl, leaving the book behind.

[They look at each other in hostility, and then they come to a realization.]

Ruby: We shouldn't be at each other's throats right now. There are more important things to worry about.

Dustin: You're right. I suppose we should look on the bright side.

Ruby: Oh yeah, the bright side. We get the opportunity to look for brand new jobs for losing one of the most game changing artifacts in history. And that's only the cherry on top of the sundae—

Dustin: No, the bright side of the building. That vent opens up on the west side of the museum.

[Ruby gives Dustin a deadpan look.]

Ruby: What is wrong with you?

[Cut to Niall exiting out of the vent with the book in his mouth. He spits it out.]

Niall: Urgh, that was worse than Max's cooking. 200 year-old leather tastes so much worse than I imagined.

Ruby: {off-screen} Hey you!

[Niall hears this and runs off. Ruby and Dustin follow closely. The camera follows them as they go throughout the busy floor of the Treetops District.]

Dustin: Stop, thief! That's museum property!

[They pass by Violet eating a burger at an outdoor table. She turns to Dustin and starts thinking.]

Violet: Hmmm, nope. Don't remember stealing anything from the museum. Today at least.

[The two historians stop, trying to catch their breath. Niall looks down on them from a bridge up above.]

Ruby: I think he lost us.

Dustin: What do we do? What do we do!?

Ruby: It looks like that's not our decision anymore.

Dustin: Y-you're right. This is a good thing!

Ruby: That's not what I—

Dustin: It's like the diary never existed. Poof, gone. Everything is as it should be!

Ruby: Dustin, are you okay?

Dustin: [Laughs] Yes! I'm great! The world is peachy! Peachy as peach sorbet!

[Cut back to Niall. He looks at the diary very confused.]

[Cut to Niall walking into his home, where he's greeted by Sabrina who is coloring something for homework.]

Sabrina: Niall! There you are! Hey, can you help me with something?

Niall: O-oh. I'm busy. Right now that is.

Sabrina: You've never been too busy to help me with my homework before.

Niall: Well, today is a different day. I'm not feeling. Good. Well. I feel bad.

[Niall hides the book behind his back as he makes his way up the stairs.]

Sabrina: So, what's with the book?

Niall: Book? What's a book?

Sabrina: You know, those things that we used to rely on before we invented television? Usually rectangular. Tend to have words in them.

Niall: Oh right, BOOK. I thought you said ROOK.

Sabrina: You know what I rook is though. We played chess yesterday.

Niall: Uh, gotta go!

[Niall runs upstairs.]

Sabrina: I'd be more disappointed that he tried to lie to me if he wasn't so bad at it. I'll take solace in the fact that I can be 100% sure he's not lying about anything else.

[Cut to Niall in his room. He places the diary on the table.]

Niall: Do I really want to do this?

[Niall looks to a poster on his wall, with the writing "All that matters is the truth."
Niall nods and he looks through the diary.]

Niall: All that matters is the truth.

[Niall flips through the diary.]

Abby: {Voice over} I took my brother to get his ears pierced today. He didn't want to do it, but it's not really his choice, now is it? I wish he wouldn't whine so much though.

[Niall puts the book down.]

Niall: Well, that was dated from the war. She was bound to have serious issues. Anyone living in such a world would have been effected by it.

[Niall looks into the book again.]

Abby: {Voice over} That mayor needed to go. I always thought that even a boy could do her job better, and it turns out that it was them who helped me do it. Although I reckon this means it'll be harder to knock the rowdiness out of them from here on out.

[Niall's stoic expression fades as he flips through the diary. He becomes more and more. The clock on the wall moves forward. Transition to Niall on the final page.]

Abby: {Voice over} Siding with the boys was the worst mistake I had ever made. I realize that now. I cannot stand my brother refusing to do ANYTHING anymore. Cooking, no. Cleaning, no. He's too busy with his new job. And the frogs he brings home are repulsive.

[Niall closes the book and just looks forward, towards the camera, contemplative.]

[Cut to the next day. Niall walks into the museum. He sees Ruby messing with one of the exhibits.]

Niall: Hey, you!

Ruby: My name is Ruby—

[Ruby turns around and sees Niall. She's immediately shocked.]

Ruby: Can I help you?

Niall: I'd like to talk to you about that diary.

Ruby: Diary?

Niall: Abigail's diary.

Ruby: Abigail?

Niall: Abigail Margaret. Civil War hero. Generally unpleasant person.

Ruby: (Nervous laugh). Abigail Margaret was theorized to have a diary, as most girls did at the time, but it had never been recovered. Her tomboyish nature led historians to theorize that she never had one.

Niall: Wait, what? You know that Abigail had a diary. I uh... borrowed it.

Ruby: Abigail Margaret was one of the leading forces to help boys win their rights in Americandy and began their climb to equal footing with girls. It was a slow and difficult fight and there are still difficulties and tensions expanding into the modern day.

Niall: Are you trying to tell me something?

Ruby: Yes I can repeat that. There are still difficulties and tensions expanding into the modern day.

Niall: Are you okay?

Ruby: If you want the advanced lesson, please join the tour. Speaking of which, I've got to get to that now.

[Ruby runs off, leaving Niall staring on in awe.]

[Cut to Niall walking into the civil war room. Niall looks on Abby's statue once again. The lighting this time makes it look more sinister, despite the statue not changing at all.]

Niall: Abigail, so we meet again.

[Summer enters the room.]

Summer: Fancy seeing you here.

Niall: Oh... uh hi Summer. The museum two days in a row? That's kind of weird.

Summer: You should look in a mirror sometime, bucko.

Niall: Uh... mirrors give me gas.

[Summer gives a very confused look.]

Summer: Well, if you must know, I'm here to get some inspiration.

Niall: Inspiration?

Summer: Oh yeah, I wanted to become the Abby for Girls & Boys Day.

Niall: Wait, what?

Summer: Yeah. I've been trying to get it for years now, but I always get beat by someone else. I was so close this year. Kinda glad I didn't win though.

Niall: Oh yeah, Talula said some things that turned boys and girls against each other, didn't she?

Summer: Yeah. All of my friends were having fun, the boy ones were havin' a lot of

fun. Then she had to open her big mouth. So glad she's not mayor anymore.

Niall: I wonder where she is now.

Summer: She's a doody head, who cares.

Niall: She did a lot of good for Summerway, don't you know? The whole town was almost taken over by mind-controlling virtual pets.

Summer: Yeah, I'm sure.

[Niall thinks for a moment.]

Niall: Well, I gotta go.

Summer: Hey, wanna help me shop for a costume?

Niall: Girls & Boys Day is almost a year away.

Summer: You can never prepare too early.

Niall: I've gotta be somewhere right now.

Summer: Tomorrow then.

Niall: Sure.

[Niall steps backwards and starts to run, while Summer gives him an awkward wave. Niall gets out of the room and catches his breath. As Niall runs down the hallways of the museum, he's literally pulled aside by Dustin. Dustin looks at Niall with an incredible seriousness.]

Dustin: Burn it.

Niall: Excuse me?

Dustin: I don't care why you stole it, but nothing good can come from that diary. Burn it.

[Niall just stares at him, breathing in and out.]

Dustin: The world would be better off if no one ever found out what was within those pages.

Niall: But... what about the truth?

Dustin: The truth? Is the truth really worth undoing centuries of work?

[Niall doesn't answer and walks out. Dustin looks on for a beat.]

Summer: {Off-screen} Hello?

Dustin: What diary!?

[The camera pans back and shows Summer standing next to him.]

Summer: Diary? No, I want to know where the bathroom is.

Dustin: Oh, over there by the Abby. I mean ALLEY!

Summer: I hope that kid's weird isn't contagious.

[Cut to Talula sitting in a zen garden in her mansion's yard. She is meditating. There's the sound of knocking. Talula opens one eye. Cut to her opening the front door to find Niall standing there, with a satchel.]

Talula: Do I know you?

Niall: I don't think so.

Talula: No, you feel somewhat familiar.

Niall: I'm uh... the kid who said Sally Dunn was an alien.

[Talula blinks for a moment and then she smiles.]

Talula: Ah yes, you. Seems your plan to stop an "alien invasion" sort of backfired, didn't it?

[Niall doesn't answer.]

Talula: Well, don't just stand there. Come inside. I'll get you some tea, or hot chocolate if you prefer.

[Cut to the two of them outside in the gardens at a yard table. There are many exotic birds around. Talula flips through the book. She keeps the same expression of worried interest.]

Talula: This diary is quite something.

Niall: You could call it something.

Talula: So, why have you brought it to me?

Niall: I don't know what to do with it.

Talula: And you're asking me?

Niall: I would prefer it if you didn't play dumb with me for once.

[Talula sits upright and looks at Niall with a haughty expression.]

Talula: What are you asking of me?

Niall: I need your help.

Talula: I can't help you. I've taken my vow not to interfere with the fate of Summerway.

Niall: I need to know if what I'm doing is right. I want to tell the truth. Everyone deserves to know the truth about Abigail.

Talula: But you're afraid that the truth may do more harm than good.

Niall: I've dedicated my life to the truth. Every fiber of my being tells me what I should do, but when things are so close to breaking.

Talula: You need to keep your cool, Mr. Niall.

Niall: This is your fault, Talula.

Talula: It is. I'm not going to dispute that. I've heard what many of the kids out there have said about me.

Niall: And you're not the slightest bit worried?

Talula: About what?

Niall: Oh, I don't know, the fact that what I have in my hand could destroy everything you've worked for.

Talula: Mr. Niall, if you know what I would do, then why are you asking for my advice? I can't make your decisions for you.

Niall: I told you, this is your fault!

Talula: But, it's not my problem, Mr. Niall. When you took that book, it became your responsibility.

[Niall gets up and starts walking away.]

Talula: Where are you going?

Niall: To talk to someone who matters. I don't have much respect for kids who don't clean up their own messes.

[Niall walks off. Talula takes a deep breath.]

Talula: If I could help you, Mr. Niall, I would.

[Cut to Niall walking up the steps to town hall. He bursts gallantly into the main hall, with all eyes on him. Melissa facepalms as soon as she sees Niall enter the room.]

Niall: I must speak with the mayor immediately. I have knowledge that could change our fundamental understanding of the world.

Melissa: Good to see that some things never change, Niall.

Niall: I need to speak to Sally... now.

Melissa: Are you sure? I've heard from a very reliable source that she's an alien.

[Niall takes off his 3D glasses and looks pleading.]

Niall: Please Melissa. This is important. If there's anything you let me see the mayor about, it has to be what I've got in this satchel here.

Melissa: Look... the best that I can do is get you an appointment tomorrow afternoon.

Niall: Tomorrow? I'm kinda—

[Melissa gives Niall a curious look.]

Niall: I'll be here tomorrow afternoon.

[Cut to Niall walking on the way to the mall. As he walks, girls do seem to try and avoid him. There is signs of hostility in the background between the two.]

Niall: What's going to happen? Is every sister going to turn on her brother, starting a new revolution and sending us a hundred years in the past?

[Niall ends up almost crashing into Summer.]

Summer: Hey, watch where you're going!

Niall: Oh, sorry.

Summer: Oh, it's you! So, you're always like that, huh?

Niall: What?

Summer: Spaced out. Are you okay?

Niall: Yeah, I was just thinking about something.

Summer: Well, don't hurt yourself. C'mon, let's go!

[The two of them walk into the mall. They pass the food stand owned by the boy and girl from the beginning of Sugar & Snails. They're not happy with each other.]

Boy #1: I told you to refill the ketchup dispenser.

Girl #1: It's your job!

[Niall and Summer walk past them.]

Niall: It's not very pleasant to see boys and girls fighting like that.

Summer: Don't I know it. I'm gonna be the best Abby and cheer them all up! C'mon, the clothing store is this way.

[Summer pulls Niall along.]

[Cut to them entering the clothing store. As they enter, a disgruntled Valentine greets them.]

Valentine: Hello, and welcome to Taylor's Fabulous Fashions. What can I do for you, Ms. and... sir?

Summer: We're looking for an Abby costume!

Valentine: Girls & Boys Day is over, you know.

[There's a sound from the intercom.]

Taylor: {Intercom} Mr. Valentine, can you please tidy up the changing rooms? Some kid just left a mountain of clothing in there, and we're pretty sure someone's lost inside.

[Valentine grumbles as he walks away.]

Valentine: [Muttering] This is what a boy's gotta do to make something of himself in this town.

Summer: That was a boy?

Niall: Nevermind that. We'll probably be able to find a costume easier on our own.

[Cut to Summer stepping out of a dressing room, looking like Abby. She's smiling happily. Niall is trying to maintain one.]

Summer: So, do I look just like Abigail?

Niall: Uh... sure.

Summer: "Uh sure." What kinda answer is that? If there's some issue with my costume, I'd like to know.

Niall: It looks spot on. It's just—

Summer: Huh? I wanna honor Abby as much as I possibly can. The least I can do is get my costume perfect as possible.

Niall: You really look up to her, don't you?

Summer: A'doy. She's one of my personal heroes.

[There's a beat as Niall thinks to himself.]

Niall: That's it. I can't keep up this facade.

Summer: Fa-what?

Niall: There's something I need to tell you. I think you should hear it.

[Cut to Valentine in one of the neighboring changing rooms, folding the clothes.]

Valentine: I shouldn't be doing this.

Summer: {Off-screen} I don't understand! This has to be a fake!

[Valentine peeks out of the door and looks at Summer and Niall arguing.]

Niall: I told you, that's her signature. Abby meant every awful word she wrote in this book.

Summer: But the Abby I know would never—

[As the two of them are arguing, Valentine sneaks around and he takes a look at the diary. His expression is blank as he flips through the book.]

Niall: Well, apparently the Abby you know never really existed.

Summer: I can't believe she... Why did you show me this!?

Niall: What do you think it felt like watching you dress up as Abby and talk about how great she was?

Summer: What do you think it's like being dressed as her, learning what she did? I've looked up to her for years!

Niall: I... know.

Summer: This is so like a boy.

[Cut to Valentine in the back. He looks up at them as he puts the diary back.]

Niall: You don't mean that.

Summer: You're right... I don't.

[Summer picks up the diary.]

Summer: Cuz Abby would never do something like this. It's... not her diary.

Niall: Summer, we've been through this—

Summer: No, Niall. It can't be her diary because it doesn't exist.

Niall: What are you—

[Summer clutches the book at her chest, and she bolts out of the room.]

Niall: Summer, wait!

[Niall's phone rings. He picks it up and looks at it. It claims that his meeting with Sally is in fifteen minutes.]

Niall: I don't have time for this.

[Niall breaks into a run himself.]

[Cut to Summer running through the entrance of the store. She passes the security check, and it starts beeping as she's still wearing the Abby costume. Niall runs up, Valentine is on a security phone as he passes by.]

Valentine: Hello, we've just had someone steal an Abby costume from Taylor's Fabulous Fashions. We're going to need the scouts down here as soon as possible.

Niall: C'mon Summer.

[Niall breaks into a run.]

[Cut to Summer walking up to the museum. She looks both ways before she enters. The museum is largely empty and quiet. Her feet echo against the floor as she runs through the building, eventually ending up in the civil war room. She comes face to face with the Abby statue. Summer shivers as she notices it.]

Summer: Looks like I've found something that belongs to you...

[Summer looks at the diary again.]

Summer: At least that's what Niall said. But... it couldn't be true, could it?

[Cut to Niall running down the street. He passes by a girl on the street, almost knocking her over.]

Girl #2: Hey, watch where you're going! Stupid boy...

Niall: S-sorry. I'm looking for someone in an Abby Margaret costume. Have you seen her?

Girl #2: You know what, now that I think about it, I have seen someone like that.

Niall: You have? You have to tell me, where!?

Girl #2: In your toilet!

[The girl cackles as she walks away, leaving Niall standing there dumbfounded.]

Niall: No, I can't focus on her right now. Think. You know where she is. You just don't know it yet.

[Niall thinks for a moment, and then he snaps his fingers, hit with a realization.]

[Cut to Niall arriving at the museum. He makes a mad dash through the museum. He passes by Dustin and Ruby, nearly knocking them over.]

Dustin: Hey, the museum is closed today!

Niall: Clocks are a government conspiracy!

[Dustin looks on confused.]

Ruby: What is with that kid?

Dustin: Should we be worried?

Ruby: I wanna say... yes.

[Niall runs into the civil war room, coming to a stop.]

Niall: [Shouting] stop!

[Summer is holding a makeover musket over the diary.]

Summer: No. This is something that needs to be done!

[Ruby and Dustin catch up to Niall.]

Ruby: What's going on here—

Dustin: She's about to destroy the diary!

Niall: Summer... I can't make you do anything you don't want to do, but you have to listen to me.

[Summer looks towards Niall. She wants some kind of answer immediately.]

Summer: Alright, but it better be good.

Dustin: Don't listen to him. He's crazy. There's nothing good that can come from that diary. If it's true, Summerway is better off living a lie.

Niall: What about Summerway lately has told you that it's better off living a lie? Boys and girls ready to go against each other at a moment's notice.

Summer: Sounds like it's a good reason to keep the past buried.

Niall: We should know history, warts and all.

Summer: I'm losing my patience, Niall. I've got to destroy this diary.

Niall: Is that how you'd like history to remember you?

[Summer's eyes narrow and she turns towards Niall.]

Niall: I don't see why not. Abby was seen as a hero. You can be seen as a brat just as easily.

Summer: I... I...

Dustin: That's a load of—

Ruby: No... I think he's got a point.

Dustin: What are you talking about?

Ruby: I don't know about you Dustin, but I became an archeologist because I cared about the truth.

[Niall walks forward, ignoring Dustin and Ruby almost completely.]

Niall: The real Abby. She doesn't deserve to be upheld as some kind of hero, does she?

Summer: N-no, she doesn't.

Niall: The world needs to know.

[Dustin gets angry.]

Dustin: Oh come on. In case you haven't noticed, ever since Girls & Boys Day, things have been a little bit tense between the girls and the boys. You need to think more practically.

Niall: So, what... we keep using a lie as our symbol of equality?

Dustin: All some of these kids need is an excuse, and—

Summer: N-no. Bad people don't need an excuse to be bad. They'll find something. Calling boys gross or girls ditzzy.

[Summer hands Niall the book.]

Summer: People should know the real Abby, so they weren't lied to. Like I was.

[Niall pulls out his cellphone.]

Niall: Unfortunately I don't think that I'm going to get that opportunity. I'm far too late for my appointment with the mayor. And after how... important I said it was, I doubt Melissa will want anything to do with me for quite some time.

Summer: We'll find a way to tell people the truth.

Niall: Well, first thing's first. Let's take that costume back to the store before you end up in Time Out.

Summer: O-oh yeah. I almost forgot what I was wearing.

[Cut back to the store. Valentine is the one who is taking the return.]

Niall: Sorry for the misunderstanding.

Valentine: It's alright. It happens .Do try and be more considerate in the future.

Summer: Yes, thank you.

Valentine: So, you seem to be quite the fan of Abby Margaret I see.

Summer: Not anymore.

Valentine: Hmmm? I thought she was one of the greatest heroes of Americandy history. What's not to like.

Summer: You wouldn't believe us if we told you. You wouldn't want to believe.

Valentine: I've heard some fantastical stories before. I'm on break in a few minutes. We can talk it over hot chocolate. My treat.

[Cut to them at the food court in the mall. Valentine is looking through the diary and feigning surprise.]

Valentine: Oh my. I could never have imagined! Abby Margaret was...

Summer: Not the best person.

Valentine: That's putting it lightly.

Niall: It doesn't really matter. No one is going to believe us about this.

Valentine: I wouldn't be so sure about that.

Niall: What do you mean?

Valentine: I have a way of getting my words in high places.

[Valentine's smile gets sinister. We hold on this as the episode ends.]